

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7227
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KIGALI POUCH
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH
AMCONSUL GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0811

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PEDR, SWEL, TBIO, BY
SUBJ: NEW BURUNDI REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AGAINST CHOLERA THREAT

REF: A BUJUMBURA 0694, B BUJUMBURA 0703, C BUJUMBURA 0720
D BUJUMBURA 0777, E BUJUMBURA 0810, F STATE 158453

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI HAS ASKED ALL FOREIGN EMBASSIES
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN COUNTRY FOR EMERGENCY ANTI-
CHOLERA ASSISTANCE. REQUEST, WHICH REACHES TOTAL OF ABOUT
1.5 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS, INCLUDES MEDICATIONS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES
AND EQUIPMENT, MOTOR VEHICLES, GASOLINE AND COMMUNICATIONS
EQUIPMENT. WE AND FOREIGN COLLEAGUES AGREE THAT MUCH OF THIS
EQUIPMENT DOES NOT FALL WITHIN CATEGORY OF EMERGENCY CHOLERA
ASSISTANCE AND THAT QUANTITIES OF MEDICATIONS AND MEDICAL
SUPPLIES ARE EXAGGERATED. WHO, BELGIANS, WEST GERMANS, FRENCH AND
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CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES HAVE ALREADY MADE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
MEDICATIONS AND SUPPLIES. WHO REPRESENTATIVE IS DISINCLINED TO
EXERCISE COORDINATING ROLE. BURUNDI ANTI-CHOLERA MEASURES
RATHER SUCCESSFUL TO DATE BUT POSSIBILITY EXISTS OF FLARE-UP
OF EPIDEMIC OR OF DEVELOPMENT OF ENDEMIC CHOLERA NORTH OF
BUJUMBURA. WE ARE MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH ALL INTERESTED
EMBASSIES AND AGENCIES AND REMAIN PREPARED TO MAKE DETERMINATION

UNDER 2 FAM 062 IF NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

1. JULY 11 WE RECEIVED COPY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY CIRCULAR NOTE NO. 519.I./050/A.E., ADDRESSED TO DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BURUNDI, CONTAINING "GENERAL REQUEST FOR MEANS TO COMBAT THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC WHICH IS RAGING IN THE COUNTRY". MINISTRY STATES IT "WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR APPROACHES MISSIONS MIGHT UNDERTAKE FOR ADEQUATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN THIS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PERIOD".

2. KEY ELEMENTS OF NOTE ARE FOLLOWING:

A. BURUNDI HAS BEEN WATCHING APPROACH OF EPIDEMIC RAGING IN TANAZANIA SINCE MAY 13 AND PREPARING TO FACE ITS ENTRY PAST BURUNDI'S FRONTIERS.

B. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FIGHT AGAINST CHOLERA SET UP TO DETERMINE MEASURES TO TAKE AND MEDICATIONS AND SUPPLIES TO PROVIDE. GOVERNMENT RELEASED UNANTICIPATED BUDGET OF 35,000,000 BURUNDI FRANCS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

C. MEASURES TAKEN CONSIST OF TREATMENT OF CASES, HYGIENE AND QUARANTINE, PREVENTIVE TREATMENT IN AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDING DISINFECTION, INSECT DESTRUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF ANTI-BIOTICS TO PEOPLE EXPOSED TO PREVENT SPREAD OF INFECTION.
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D. IT IS FEARED THAT LACK OF FANASIL, DISINFECTANTS, INSECTICIDES AND, ABOVE ALL, THE LACK OF VEHICLES AND GASOLINE WILL PUT THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN A CRITICAL POSITION. (COMMENT: WE AND FOREIGN COLLEAGUES AGREE THAT QUESTION OF VEHICLES AND GASOLINE IS REALLY A BURUNDI BUDGET MATTER AND NOT RELEVANT TO EMERGENCY CHOLERA ASSISTANCE. GOB HAS PLENTY OF UNDER UTILIZED VEHICLES IN ARMY AND NO SHORTAGE OF GASOLINE. END COMMENT.)

E. NOTE APPENDS A LIST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR FANASIL TABLETS AND AMPOULES, PERFUSION SOLUTIONS, CHLORAMPHENICOL, CREOLINE, "HYPOCHLORINE CALCIQUE", INSECTICIDES, INSECTICIDE PUMPS, AUTOMOBILES, GASOLINE, ELECTRIC GENERATORS, HOSPITAL BEDS, HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL VALUE OF 137,028,339 BURUNDI FRANCS (APPROX 1.5 MILLION U.S. DOLS.). NOTE REMARKS THAT IF BURUNDI WERE PROVIDED WITH RAW MATERIALS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURE ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR CHOLERA ASSISTANCE COULD BE REDUCED TO 124,635,463 BURUNDI FRANCS (APPROX 1.4 MILLION U.S. DOLS.).

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE AND OUR FOREIGN COLLEAGUES GENERALLY AGREE THAT THESE TOTAL FIGURES ARE EXAGGERATED OUT OF PROPORTION

TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHOLERA EMERGENCY THREAT. FIRST, THEY INCLUDE LONG RANGE INFRASTRUCTURE ITEMS AND BUDGET SUPPORT ITEMS SUCH AS MOTOR VEHICLES AND GASOLINE. SECOND, THE QUANTITIES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES CITED ARE EXCESSIVE.

4. COMMENT: NEVERTHELESS INDICATIONS ARE THAT A DANGEROUS CHOLERA THREAT REMAINS AND IS SLIGHTLY INCREASING IN SERIOUSNESS. IT MAY EITHER FLARE UP IN TRUE EPIDEMIC FORM IF IT GETS AHEAD OF THE SO FAR SUCCESSFUL BURUNDI PREVENTIVE MEASURES OR IT MAY BECOME ENDEMIC IN THE IMBO AREA NORTH OF BUJUMBURA PRESENTING A PERMANENT THREAT TO THAT POPULATION CENTER.

5. COMMENT: BELGIANS HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF MEDICATIONS, DISINFECTANTS AND EQUIPMENT. FRENCH
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AND WEST GERMANS HAVE MADE SMALLER CONTRIBUTIONS. CRS HAS DELIVERED 100,000 FANASIL TABLETS AND 25,000 TETRACYCLINE TABLETS. WHO REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED HIS ORGANIZATION PROVIDE CERTAIN KEY MEDICATIONS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES UNAVAILABLE LOCALLY, ON LIST MADE UP BY BURUNDI GOVERNMENT. BRAZZAVILLE WHO OFFICER FURTHER REDUCED THIS LIST BY HALF (REF E) AND MOST OF ITEMS REMAINING ON REDUCED LIST HAVE BEEN RECEIVED HERE. WHO REP IS DISINCLINED TO PLAY COORDINATING ROLE. WE ARE MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH ALL OF THESE EMBASSIES AND ORGANIZATIONS AND REMAIN PREPARED TO MAKE DETERMINATION UNDER 2 FAM 062 IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY.
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